Amendments to the Claims

The following listing of claims shall replace all prior listings and versions of claims in this application.

Listing of Claims

1-11 (Cancelled)

12 (Original) A guide device for locating a working axis substantially normal with respect to a non-spherical articular surface of bone, said device comprising:

a first element having a longitudinal axis and a contact surface mounted to a shaft; and

a second element with a contact surface movable with respect to the contact surface of the first element,

wherein, when said guide device is placed on a non-spherical articular surface, both contact surfaces make contact with said articular surface.

13 (Original) A guide device as claimed in claim 12, wherein each said contact surface comprises a plurality of arcuate sections of a generally toroidal member, wherein said generally toroidal member is formed when said contact surfaces make contact with a locally spherical articular surface.

14 (Original) A guide device as claimed in claim 12, wherein one said contact surface is biased in one direction with respect to the other said contact surface.

15 (Original) A guide device as claimed in claim 12, wherein said contact surfaces are adapted such that the contact surface of the first element make contact with a plurality of points along either one of the AP or ML curves of an articular surface, while the contact surface of said second element make contact with a plurality of points along the other of the AP or ML curves of said articular surface.

16 (Original) A guide device as claimed in claim 12, wherein said first or said second element comprises a cannula, wherein said guide device is adapted to receive a tool for creating a pilot hole through said cannula and permit said tool to be driven substantially normal into an articular surface of bone.

17 (Original) A guide device as claimed in claim 12, wherein said first or said second element comprises a cannula, wherein said guide device is adapted to receive a guide pin or wire through said cannula and permit said guide pin or wire to be driven substantially normal into an articular surface of bone.

18 (Original) A guide device as claimed in claim 12, wherein said first or said second element comprises at least one aperture or transparent portion formed therein, permitting the viewing of at least a portion of an articular surface therethrough.

19 (Original) A guide device as claimed in claim 12, wherein the outermost dimensions of said contact surfaces surround a defect in an articular surface.

20 (Original) A guide device as claimed in claim 15, wherein the plurality of points contacting said contact surfaces corresponds to the plurality of points abutting an articular surface along the perimeter of an implant.

21 (Original) A guide device as claimed in claim 15, wherein the plurality of points contacting said contact surfaces corresponds to the plurality of points along the perimeter of a portion of an articular surface to be removed.

22 (Original) A guide device for locating a working axis substantially normal with respect to an articular surface of bone having an anterior-posterior (AP) curve and a medial-lateral (ML) curve, said device comprising:

a cannulated outer shaft, said outer shaft having a central longitudinal axis and an outer component at its distal end, said outer component comprising a set of arms; and

a cannulated inner shaft slidably disposed within the cannula of said outer shaft, said inner shaft having an inner component at its distal end and sharing the central longitudinal axis of said outer shaft, said inner component comprising a set of arms.

23-80 (Cancelled)

81 (New) A method for replacing a portion of an articular surface of bone generally defined by a first and a second curve, said method comprising:

establishing an axis generally normal to the portion of the articular surface of bone to be replaced based on said first curve and said second curve of said articular surface;

excising only a portion of said articular surface adjacent to said axis, to create an implant site;

one of selecting and artificial implant corresponding to dimensions of said implant site from a set of variously-sized artificial implants, and fabricating an artificial implant corresponding to a dimension of said implant site; and

installing said implant into said implant site.

82 (New) The method of claim 81, wherein said first and second curves are anterior-posterior (AP) and medial-lateral (ML) curves.

83 (New) The method of claim 81, wherein excising said articular surface comprises cutting at least a portion of said articular surface radially symmetrically about said axis.

84 (New) The method of claim 81, wherein said implant comprises a bone-facing distal surface adapted to mate with said implant site, said surface comprising at

least one mating feature; and a proximal surface having a contour based on an original surface contour of said excised portion of said articular surface.

85 (New) The method of claim 81, wherein establishing said axis comprises providing a device comprising a first element comprising an aiming feature and a first contact surface mounted to a shaft, and a second element comprising a second contact surface movable with respect to the first contact surface, wherein, said first and second contact surfaces are configured to contact a non-spherical articular surface when said device is placed on said articular surface.

86 (New) The method of claim 81, wherein excising said articular surface comprises rotating a cutting tool about said axis.

87 (New) The method of claim 81, wherein installing said implant comprises driving a fixation element into said articular surface along said axis, said fixation element comprising a mating feature at a proximal end thereof.

88 (New) The method of claim 87, wherein said mating feature is configured to aid in the depthwise positioning of said fixation element with respect to said articular surface.

89 (New) The method of claim 88, wherein said mating feature is configured to be coupled to the distal portion of an implant.